

**By 2030, Montana's population over age 65 will grow 122%,
while our total population will grow 33%.**

Will our elders age with dignity in their homes and livable communities?

Support SB 155

Older Montanans Trust Fund

*Sponsored by Sen. Carol Williams, Rep. Bill Jones, Rep. Cynthia Hiner
A bill at the request of Governor Schweitzer*

SB 155 creates the Older Montanans Trust Fund, a savings account that will help our state prepare for the growing demand of senior services. Interest from the trust fund will be appropriated by the legislature when there is \$20 million or by the year 2015.

What will it fund?

By 2015, the Trust Fund will expand senior services like in-home meals, home health and personal care, support for family caregivers, and transportation services for seniors. With interest from the Trust, Montana can look to new and innovative programs that will allow all of us to age in our homes and make our communities more livable for seniors.

People overwhelmingly prefer to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. Currently, most care (about 80%) is provided in homes by unpaid family members and friends. As our population ages, Montana needs to find ways to creatively support our home and community-based senior services. Now is the time to start saving resources for our aging population by creating the Older Montanans Trust Fund.

What is the funding source?

SB 155 will start up the Trust with one-time money leftover from the pharmacy assistance programs (Big Sky Rx) passed last session in SB 324. As amended, SB 155 takes the \$4 to \$5 million left over from Big Sky Rx in fiscal year '07 and puts it into the Trust. (Because Medicare's prescription drug program (Part D) was confusing, Big Sky Rx was slow to get enrollees and money is leftover from FY '07). A future legislature will need to look at an additional funding source for the Older Montanans Trust Fund.

SB 155 is an important step towards preparing for our aging population's needs.

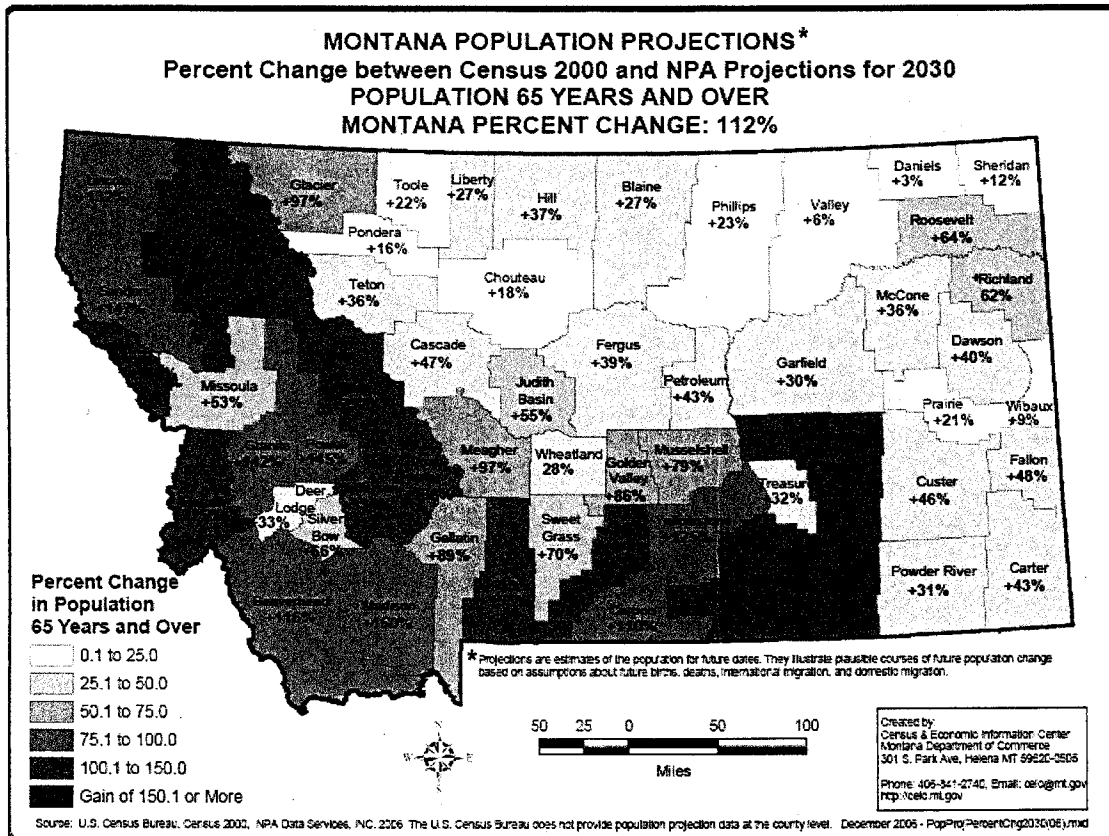


The power to make it better.®

By 2030, Montana's population over age 65 will grow 112%,
while the total population will grow 33%.

Will our elders age with dignity in their homes and livable communities?

Support SB 155 creating an Older Montanans Trust Fund



AARP Montana

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole.

30 W. 14th St, Ste 301,
Helena, MT 59601,
406-457-4716

